

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas J. McMurphy et al.                      Art Unit : 1616  
Serial No. : 10/034,522    Examiner : M. Hartley  
Filed : December 20, 2001  
Title : DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CONTRAST AGENTS WITH EXTENDED BLOOD  
RETENTION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

In the Notice of Allowance dated September 12, 2003 for the above-referenced case, the Examiner stated that "the primary distinguishing feature is the phosphate linker which connects the specific chemical moieties shown in the claims to the chelating agent." While Applicants agree that the phosphodiester moiety is a distinguishing feature of the allowed claims, Applicants respectfully assert that it is not the "primary" distinguishing feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the overall chemical structure of the claimed compounds distinguish the claimed compounds from prior art compounds.

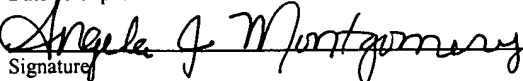
No fee is believed due for this submission. Enclosed concurrently herewith is a \$1660.00 check in payment of the Issue Fee in this case. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

October 20, 2003

Date of Deposit

  
Signature

Angela J. Montgomery

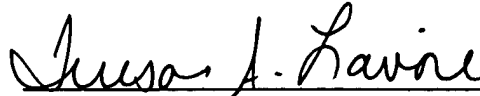
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Applicant : Thomas J. McMurtry et al.  
Serial No. : 10/034,522  
Filed : December 20, 2001  
Page : 2 of 2

Attorney's Docket No.: 13498-005002 / MET-4

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/20/03

  
Teresa A. Lavoie, Ph.D.  
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**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NOTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.27(g)(2) OF LOSS OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS

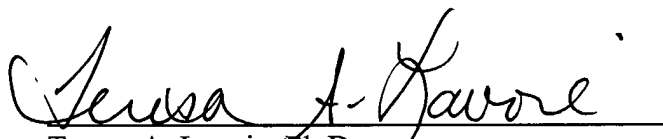
Applicants hereby notify the Commissioner that the status of the above-referenced patent application has changed from a small entity to a large entity. Please remove small entity status for the above-referenced application.

This notification is hereby filed concurrently with payment of the issue fee and publication fee for a large entity. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

10/20/03

  
Teresa A. Lavoie, Ph.D.  
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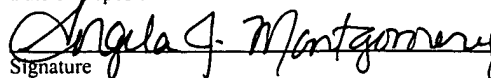
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